

## LCD TVs thrive

According to a report from DisplaySearch, LCD TV panel shipments, LCD TV sell-in and sell-through were all higher than expected in Q4 2005. Shipments on a sell-in basis were 12% higher than projected, rising 58% Q/Q and 137% to a record 8.6 million units. For

2005, LCD TV shipments rose 141% to register 21.2 million units.

### Aluminium leads

Aluminium has now exceeded iron to become the second most used automotive material worldwide, according to a new

report commissioned by The Aluminum Association Inc. Cars in North America now contain an average of 319 lbs of aluminium representing a 16% increase from 2002 data.

For more details, visit: [www.autoaluminum.org](http://www.autoaluminum.org)

## RF switch and MEMS set to disrupt cellphone business

Strategy Analytics, the research and consulting company, continues to keep a watch on the trends in markets such as mobile comms. Recently, the company has published its conclusions concerning not only the RF switch segment but also that for RF MEMS for cellphones.

In its evaluation of RF MEMS technology, the Strategic Technologies Practice at Strategy Analytics has recognised WiSpry's MEMs varicap (variable capacitor) as a practical device that could reduce handset bills of material.

This technology evaluation is found in the Strategy Analytics'

Insight report, "*WiSpry Claims First Practical RF MEMS for Cellphones.*"

WiSpry's first product, a varicap duplexer, scheduled for production release in Q1 2006, is a two-state, tunable notch filter suitable for CDMA and W-CDMA handsets. WiSpry plans to release other products based on its technology, including RF MEMS switches and Power Amplifier (PA) modules.

"While it is difficult to predict WiSpry's ultimate success in the cellular handset market, this company appears to have developed a practical MEMS device with compelling benefits," says Chris Taylor. "If it

performs as claimed, WiSpry's varicap would reduce the number of passive components needed in handsets and enhance the performance of antenna switch modules (ASMs), PAs, and transceiver modules."

Asif Anwar adds that, "On the other hand, offering complete PA modules seems unwise given the competitive nature of the market, and the dominance of large, established, GaAs and LDMOS vendors such as RF Micro Devices, Skyworks and Renesas Technology. Such a move would put WiSpry in direct competition with its customers."

For more details, visit: [www.strategyanalytics.com](http://www.strategyanalytics.com)

## Verbatim still tops DVD ranking

For the second year in a row Verbatim Corp has been named the leading supplier of recordable CD and DVD media worldwide by the Santa Clara Consulting Group (SCCG).

Verbatim and its parent, Mitsubishi Kagaku Media (MKM), not only maintained the No. 1 worldwide but also increased global market share of recordable CDs and DVDs. Their worldwide dominance in the DVD media markets was evident in the report's Unit Shipments section, which lists Verbatim/MKM shipments of

recordable DVD media in 2005 as 531.249 m; 23.3% more than its nearest competitor.

Of the five DVD formats tracked in the report, DVD-R was the most significant DVD format in 2005 with 59% of DVD recordable disc sales.

Verbatim/MKM leads the global DVD-R market with a 17.01% market share for all of 2005. In the DVD+R segment, which accounted for 34.2% of worldwide DVD recordable sales in 2005, Verbatim/MKM leads with 17.77% of the market.

Verbatim/MKM also leads the global CDR market with 15.1% of CD-R sales and 19.8% of CD-RW.

With 16x DVD writers accounting for the majority of the CD/DVD burners being sold today, consistent media quality has become even more important for professionals, businesses and consumers because higher-speed burners and recorders are less tolerant of media imperfections.

For more details, visit: [www.verbatim.com](http://www.verbatim.com)

## Sensors on the up - in China

Chinese sensor makers are increasing production, says InTechno Consulting. Globally the sensor market will grow at a rate of 4.5% to reach US\$50.6 bn by 2008. The China Sensor Trade Association (CSTA) estimates that mainland China's sensor output rose by 18% from 1.7 bn units in 2004 to 2 bn units in 2005. Sales consequently surged to US\$3.3 bn in 2005, an increase of 22% from US\$2.7 bn in 2004. For 2006, mainland China will produce 2.4 bn units of sensors, worth US\$4 bn.

### ... & in the USA

In a study by Freedonia Group US demand for chemical sensors is expected to grow 7.4% a year to \$4.2 bn by 2009. Demand for biosensors in the medical and diagnostics market will dominate and drive the industry while development of new products and markets thanks to nanomaterials, microfabrication and high-tech manufacturing will influence the field. Fastest growth can be anticipated in emerging sensor technologies, such as optical and biosensors.

## Big rise in hard drives

According to IDC's Worldwide Disk Storage Systems Quarterly Tracker, the global external disk storage systems factory revenues grew \$708 m in the fourth quarter of 2005, posting 17.9% growth from a year ago to \$4.7 bn. Over that quarter, the total disk storage systems market grew to \$6.8 bn, up 13.1% from the prior year's fourth quarter. This means that the total disk storage systems capacity shipped reached 653 petabytes, growing 54.6%.